GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7989
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
SUSPENSION OF PAK FROM COMMONWEALTH
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been suspended from the Council of Commonwealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth has hinted that Pakistan may face a possible ban on cricketing ties with Commonwealth countries unless elections are held there for restoration of democracy within a definite time-frame;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a) & b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan was suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth, pending restoration of democracy in that country, on 18 October 1999 following the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) Meeting held in London on that day.This decision was confirmed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Durban from 12-15 November 1999.At the CMAG Meeting held on 2nd May 2000 in London, it was decided that Pakistan would continue to be suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth. It was also decided `to keep the situation in Pakistan under review and to recommend further measures if there was no speedy progress towards the restoration of democracy`.

c) Government are not aware of any reference by the Commonwealth Secretary General to any possible ban on Pakistan`s cricketing ties with Commonwealth Countries.

d) & e) Does not arise.